

RELIEF FOR DESTITUTE INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

ASKING

An appropriation of money for the relief of destitute Indians.

FEBRUARY 2, 1861.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
February 1, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 30th ultimo, recommending that one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) be appropriated for the relief of destitute Indians, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

I concur in this recommendation, and respectfully request that the appropriation be made.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

MOSES KELLY, *Acting Secretary.*

Hon. WILLIAM PENNINGTON,
Speaker of House of Representatives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Office of Indian Affairs, January 30, 1861.

SIR: In my last annual report, in referring to the destitute condition of many of the Indian tribes, in consequence of the failure of crops caused by the excessive drought the last year in various parts of the country, I stated that imperative duty prompted the suggestion that the attention of Congress be called to the necessity of making an appropriation, for which a special estimate could thereafter be made, with a view to prevent suffering and starvation among the tribes in indigent circumstances.

As the present session of Congress will soon terminate, and nothing as yet, that I am aware of, having been done by that body in relation to the subject, I have the honor to suggest that the attention of Congress be again called to the matter, with a view to the immediate relief of the Indians referred to, residing in Kansas and the neighborhood, whose condition is peculiarly distressing, and should be at once relieved to a partial extent at least, and thus prevent starvation until they can realize a subsistence from the cultivation of crops the coming season.

I therefore recommend that one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) be appropriated for the relief of indigent Indians, to be placed at the disposal of the Office of Indian Affairs, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

This sum, divided among the various tribes whose immediate wants are pressing, will afford but a small amount *per capita*, but which, if judiciously dispensed in provisions, &c., in proportion to their several necessities, will, it is thought, furnish subsistence sufficient to sustain them through the remainder of the present season, and until they can realize a support from the cultivation of crops.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. B. GREENWOOD, *Commissioner.*

Hon. MOSES KELLY,

Acting Secretary of the Interior.